New report: Workforce Skills and Innovation [PDF]

What workforce skills are needed in an innovation-driven economy? This new report by Philip Toner provides an account of the main approaches, debates and evidence in the research literature on the role of workforce skills in the innovation process in developed economies. The paper identifies a number of major findings in the literature associated with the observed patterns of innovation and key aspects of economic performance:

- The predominant form of innovation in firms is incremental, and this points to the central role of the broader workforce in the generation, adaptation and diffusion of technical and organisational change.
- Achieving high academic standards for the largest proportion of school students not only supports high participation in post school education and training but creates a workforce with greater potential to engage productively with innovation.
- The extent to which a firm’s workforce actively engages in innovation is strongly determined by its work organisation practices.
- There are large differences across advanced nations in workforce skill formation systems, especially for vocational skills. This results in large disparities across nations in the quantity and quality of workforce skills.

Please send us your feedback

- Has there been an increase in the demand for tertiary educated people in your country in the past decades? Graphical evidence would be appreciated.

Other news

- Innovative Workplaces, Making Better Use of Skills within Organisations: our new book shows that work organization matters for innovation and that policy-makers could do something about it.
- Improving Health and Social Cohesion through Education: this new CERI book shows that education has the potential to promote health as well as civic and social engagement.

CERI’s Innovation Strategy for Education and Training

The OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation co-led the human capital pillar of the OECD Innovation Strategy, a major policy initiative offering a cross-government approach to help countries capture the economic and social benefits of innovation in a new era. Its ongoing Innovation Strategy project is now focusing on two educational strands:

- Education and skills for innovation
- Innovation and improvement in education